(PRICE ONE PENNY.)

22

Catſkin's Garland;

Or, the Wandering Young Gentlewoman.

IN FIVE PARTS.

I. Of a rich 'Squire's Daughter near London, who was forced from home by her cruel father; how ſhe made herſelf a garment of catſkins, and wandered up and down.

II. How ſhe came one morning to a Knight's Door, and begged to lie in the ſtables, which was ſoon granted, and how ſhe was entertained after.

III. How he diſcovered Catſkin in rich attire, that ſhe had brought from home. How he fell in love with her, and married her.

IV. How her mother and ſiſter died, and her father came diſguiſed like a beggar to her gate.

V. How he gave her ten thouſand pounds.

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CATSKIN GARLAND.

PART I.

YOU fathers and mothers and children alſo,
Come near unto me, and ſoon you ſhall know
The ſenſe of my ditty, for I dare to ſay,
The like hasn't been heard of this many long day.
This ſubject which to you I am to relate,
It is of a 'ſquire who had a large eſtate,
And the firſt dear infant his wife ſhe did bare,
Was a young daughter, a beauty moſt fair.
He ſaid to his wife, had this but been a boy,
It would pleaſe me better and increaſe my joy;
If the next be of the ſame ſort, I declare,
Of what I am poſſeſſed it ſhall have no ſhare.
In twelve months after, this woman we hear,
Had another daughter of beauty moſt clear,
And when her father knew 'twas a female,
In-to a bitter paſſion he preſently fell.
Saying, ſince this is of the ſame ſort as the firſt,
In my habitation ſhe ſhall not be nurs'd;
Pray let it be ſent into the country,
For where I am, truly this child ſhall not be.
With tears his dear wife unto him did ſay,
My dear be contented, I'll ſend her away,
Then into the country this child ſhe did ſend,
For to be brought up by an intimate friend.
Altho' that her father hated her ſo,
He good education on her did beſtow,
And with a gold locket, and robes of the beſt,
This ſlighted young damſel was commonly dreſt.
But when unto ſtature this damſel was grown,
And found from her father ſhe had no love ſhewn,
She cried, before I will lie under his frown,
I am fully reſolved to range the world round.

PART II.

BUT now mark, good people, the cream of the jeſt,
In what a ſtrange manner this female was dreſt;
Catſkins into a garment ſhe made, I declare,
The which for her cloathing ſhe daily did wear:
Her own rich attire and jewels beſide,
They up in a bundle together were ty'd;
And to ſeek her fortune ſhe wander'd away,
And when ſhe had wander'd a cold winter's day.
In the evening-tide ſhe came to a town,
Where at a knight's door ſhe ſat herſelf down,
For to reſt herſelf, who was weary for ſure,
This noble knight's lady then came to the door.
And ſeeing this creature in ſuch ſort of dreſs,
The Lady unto her theſe words did expreſs,
From whence came you, or what will you have?
She ſaid, a night's reſt in your ſtable I crave.
The Lady ſaid to her, I grant thy deſire,
Come into the kitchen and ſtand by the fire;
Then ſhe thank'd the lady, and went in with haſte,
Where ſhe was gaz'd on from biggeſt to the leaſt.
And being warm'd her hunger was great,
They gave her a plate of good food for to eat,
And then to an out-houſe this damſel was led,
Where with freſh ſtraw ſhe ſoon made her a bed.
And when in the morning the day-light ſhe ſaw,
Her rich robes and jewels ſhe hid in the ſtraw,
And being very cold, ſhe then did retire,
And went into the kitchen, and ſtood by the fire.
The cook ſaid, my lady promiſed that thee
Shouldeſt be a ſcullion to wait upon me,
What ſay'ſt thou girl, art thou willing to bide?
With all my heart then ſhe to her reply'd.
To work at her needle ſhe could very well,
And raiſing of paſte few could her excell;

She being ſo handy, the cook's heart did win,
And then ſhe was call'd by the name of Catſkin.

PART III.

THIS knight had a ſon both comely and tall,
Who often times uſed to be at a ball,
A mile out of town, and one evening tide,
To ſee a fine dancing away he did ride.
Catſkin ſaid to his mother, madam let me
Go after your ſon, this ball for to ſee,
With that in a paſſion this lady ſhe grew,
And ſtruck her with a ladle and broke it in two.
Being thus ſerved ſhe then got away,
And in her rich garments herſelf did array,
Then to ſee this ball ſhe then did retire,
Where ſhe danc'd ſo fine all did her admire.
The ſport being done this young 'ſquire did ſay
Young lady where do you live, tell me I pray?
Her anſwer to him was, ſir, that I will tell,
At the ſign of the broken ladle I dwell.
She being very nimble got home firſt 'tis ſaid,
And with her catſkin robes ſhe ſoon was array'd,
Then into the kitchen again ſhe did go,
But where ſhe had been none of them did know.
Next night the young 'ſquire himſelf to content,
To ſee the ball acted, away then he went,
She ſaid, let me go this ball for to view,
She ſtruck her with a ſkimmer and broke it in two.
Then out of doors ſhe run being full of heavineſs,
And with her rich garments herſelf ſhe did dreſs,
For to ſee this ball ſhe run away with ſpeed,
And to ſee her dancing all wonder'd indeed.
The ball being ended, the 'ſquire ſaid then,
Pray where do you live? ſhe anſwered him,

Sir, becauſe you aſk me, account I will give,
At the ſign of the broken ſkimmer I live.
Being dark ſhe left him, and home did hie,
And in her catſkin robes ſhe was dreſt preſently,
And into the kitchen among them ſhe went,
But where ſhe had been they were all innocent.
The 'ſquire came home and found catſkin there,
He was in amaze and began for to ſwear,
For two nights at the ball has been a lady,
The ſweeteſt of beauties that e'er I did ſee.
She was the beſt dancer in all the whole place,
And very much like our catſkin in the face,
Had ſhe not been dreſt in that coſtly degree,
I would have ſworn it was catſkin's body.
Next night he went to ſee this ball once more,
Then ſhe aſk'd his mother to go as before,
Who having a baſon of water in hand,
She threw it at catſkin, as I underſtand.
Shaking her wet ears out of doors ſhe did run,
And dreſſed herſelf when this thing ſhe had done,
To ſee this ball acted ſhe then run her ways,
To ſee her fine dancing all gave her the praiſe.
And having concluded the young 'ſquire he,
Said from whence do you come, pray now tell me?
Her anſwer was, Sir, you ſhall know the ſame,
From the ſign of the baſon of water I came.
Then homeward ſhe hurried as faſt as might be,
This young 'ſquire then was reſolved to ſee,
Whereto ſhe belong'd then follow'd catſkin,
Into an old ſtraw houſe he ſaw her creep in.
He ſaid, O brave catſkin, I find it is thee,
Who theſe three nights together has ſo charmed me,
Thou'rt the ſweeteſt creature my eyes e'er beheld,
With joy and comfort my heart it is fill'd.
Thou art the cook's ſcullion, but as I have life,

Grant me thy love and I'll make thee my wife,
And you ſhall have maids to wait at your call,
Sir that cannot be, I've no portion at all.
Thy beauty is portion my joy and my dear,
I prize it far better, than thouſands a year,
And to gain my friends' conſent, I've got a trick,
I'll go to my bed and feign myſelf ſick.
There's none ſhall attend me but thee I proteſt,
And ſome day or other in thy richeſt dreſs,
Thou ſhalt be dreſt, if my parents come nigh,
I'll tell them that for thee ſick I do lie.

PART IV.

HAVING thus conſulted this couple parted,
Next day this young 'ſquire took to his bed;
When his dear parents this thing perceiv'd
For fear of his death they were heartily griev'd.
To tend him they ſent for a nurſe preſently,
He ſaid none but catſkin my nurſe now ſhall be;
His parents ſaid no, he ſaid but ſhe ſhall,
Or elſe I'll have none for to nurſe me at all.
His parents both wonder'd to hear him ſay thus,
That no one but catſkin muſt be his nurſe;
So then his dear parents their ſon to content,
Up into the chamber poor catſkin they ſent.
Sweet cordials and other rich things were prepar'd,
Which betwixt this young couple was equally ſhar'd;
And when all alone they in each other's arms,
Enjoy'd one another in love's pleaſant charms.
At length on a time poor catſkin 'tis ſaid,
In her rich attire ſhe then was array'd;
And when his mother the chamber drew near,
Then much like a goddeſs did catſkin appear.
Which caus'd her to ſtartle, and thus ſhe did ſay,
What young lady's this, ſon, tell me I pray?

He ſaid it is catſkin for whom I ſick lie,
And without I have her with ſpeed I ſhall die.
His mother run down for to call the old knight,
Who run up to ſee this amazing great ſight;
He ſaid, is this catſkin we hold ſo in ſcorn,
I ne'er ſaw a finer dame ſince I was born.
The old knight ſaid to her, I pri'thee tell me,
From whence doſt thou come, and of what family;
Then who was her parents ſhe gave him to know,
And what was the cauſe of her wandering ſo.
The young 'ſquire ſaid, if you will ſave my life,
Pray grant this young creature may be my wife;
His father reply'd, your life for to ſave,
If you are agreed my conſent you ſhall have.
Next day with great triumph and joy as we hear,
There were many coaches came far and near;
She much like a goddeſs dreſt in great array,
Catſkin to the 'ſquire was married that day.
For ſeveral days this great wedding did laſt,
Where was many topping and gallant rich gueſts;
And for joy the bells rung all over the town,
And bottles of claret went merrily round.
When catſkin was married her fame to raiſe,
To ſee her modeſt carriage all gave her the praiſe;
Thus her charming beauty the 'ſquire did win,
And who lives ſo great as he and catſkin.

PART V.

NOW in the fifth part I'll endeavour to ſhew,
How things with her parents and ſiſter did go;
Her mother and ſiſter of life bereft,
And all alone the old knight he was left.
And hearing his daughter being married ſo brave,
He ſaid, in my noddle a fancy I have;

Dreſt like a poor man a journey I'll make,
And ſee if on me ſome pity ſhe'll take.
Then dreſt like a beggar he goes to the gate,
Where ſtood his daughter, who appear'd very great;
He ſaid, noble lady a poor man I be;
And am now forced to crave charity.
With a bluſh ſhe aſk'd him from whence he came,
With that then he told her, and alſo his name;
She ſaid, I'm your daughter whom you ſlighted ſo,
Yet nevertheleſs to you kindneſs I'll ſhew.
Thro' mercy the Lord hath provided for me,
Now father come in and ſit down then ſaid ſhe;
Then the beſt of proviſions the houſe could afford,
For to make him welcome was ſet on the board,
She ſaid thou art welcome, feed hearty I pray,
And if you are willing with me you ſhall ſtay,
So long as you live, then he made this reply,
I am only come thy love for to try.
Thro' mercy my child I am rich and not poor,
I have gold and ſilver enough now in ſtore:
And for the love that at thy houſe I have found,
For a portion I'll give thee ten thouſand pounds.
So in a few days after, as I underſtand,
This man he went home and ſold off his land;
And ten thouſand pounds to his daughter did give,
And now all together in love they do live.

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